S23 Ultra vs S24 Ultra: Which Phone Takes Better Photos?

Let's cut straight to the chase.

If you're like me, the camera is the most important part of a phone. Everything else is secondary. The screen is nice. The battery matters. But at the end of the day, you want photos that look incredible.

So when Samsung released the S24 Ultra with a completely different camera setup, I had questions.

For a detailed breakdown of every camera spec and test result, check out **https://gadgetxpedia.com/blog/s23-ultra-vs-s24-ultra** . They've done the testing so you don't have to.

But let me walk you through the real-world camera differences.

The Zoom Situation: 10x vs 5x

This is the big one.

The S23 Ultra had a 10x optical zoom periscope lens. It was amazing. You could zoom in on the moon, read street signs from across the park, and generally feel like a spy.

The S24 Ultra? They swapped the 10x lens for a **50MP 5x telephoto lens**.

At first, I was skeptical. 5x instead of 10x? That sounds like a downgrade.

But here's the thing.

The new 5x lens still delivers optical-grade 10x magnification. It just does it with better quality, more detail, and more flexibility. You can crop in without losing sharpness. You get more versatility at different zoom levels.

And at 5x, the photos are noticeably sharper than the S23 Ultra's 5x shots. So if you zoom a lot, the S24 Ultra is actually better.

Processing: Natural vs. Overcooked

This is where Samsung really stepped up.

The S23 Ultra had a habit of over-sharpening everything. Photos looked crisp—almost too crisp. Textures were exaggerated. Skin tones could look a little off. It was a "look" that some people loved and others hated.

The S24 Ultra dials all of that back. Colours are more natural. Contrast is more balanced. Shadows and highlights are handled with more care.

The result? Photos that look more like what you actually saw with your eyes.

Low Light: A Clear Winner

In low light, the S24 Ultra is noticeably better.

The dynamic range is wider. You get more detail in the shadows without blowing out the highlights. Noise is better controlled. Colours are more accurate.

If you take a lot of evening or indoor shots, you'll appreciate the improvement.

Video: Steady and Sharp

Both phones shoot excellent video. Both support 8K recording. Both have solid stabilization.

But the S24 Ultra's processing gives video a more natural look. Less sharpening. Better colour accuracy. Smoother transitions.

It's not a huge leap. But it's there.

Which One Is Better for You?

If you're a photography enthusiast who wants the most natural, detailed, and versatile camera, get the S24 Ultra. The 5x telephoto lens is more flexible than the 10x lens on the S23 Ultra. The processing is more refined. The low-light performance is better.

If you're happy with your S23 Ultra's camera, you don't need to upgrade. It's still excellent. But if you're coming from an older phone or buying new, the S24 Ultra is the clear winner.

Final Thought

Samsung finally nailed the camera processing. The S24 Ultra takes photos that look real. Not over-processed. Not artificial. Just... real.

And that, more than any spec sheet, is why it's worth it.